

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: West Kendrick Park Pronghorn Telemetry Study		Project No. 10-205
Region/GMU: Flagstaff/ GMU 7 West	HPC: Williams/Flagstaff	
Project Type: Pronghorn Movement Study		
Project Description: Collar two pronghorn in west Kendrick Park to determine movement corridors from the summer range at Kendrick Park to winter range and back. The corridor is believed to be from Kendrick Park to Government Prairie. This corridor is in jeopardy due to subdivision and fencing at Crowley Park and Ponderosa tree plantings that occurred in the 1970's. GPS data obtained from the collars would be used to identify actual movement corridors and direct future habitat improvement projects to maintain and enhance pronghorn movement corridors through Game Management Unit 7.		
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Pronghorn		
Possible Funding Partners: Arizona Antelope Foundation		
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: Summer 2010 Completed: Summer 2012	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <u>N/A</u> No <u> </u> Projected Completion Date:	

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$ 4,750 (2 GPS collars and half capture operation)
Cost Share Funds: \$ 4,750 (AGFD personnel costs, airplane mortality flight costs and half capture operation)
Total Project Costs: \$ 9,500

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Carl Lutch (please print) Telephone: 928-214-1242	Address: 3500 S. Lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001
AGFD Contact and Phone No. Same as above (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Jeff Gagnon-AGFD; Larry Phoenix-AGFD Cary Thompson-Coconino National Forest	Date: March 3, 2009 <i>OUT OF CYCLE</i>
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Game Branch
AZ Game and Fish Dept.
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Email proposals to Ron Thompson at rthompson@azgfd.gov

(revised 7-02-2007)

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES _____ NO X

No, but none of the Flagstaff and Williams area projects were “presented” at an HPC meeting. See attached letter explaining coordination with Arizona Antelope Foundation.

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?

No

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

A Pronghorn habitat improvement project is in the early stages of design for Game Management Unit (GMU) 7. This project is not yet named, but would stretch from Government Prairie in GMU 7 West through Kendrick Park and extend east toward Highway 89 and north of the San Francisco Peaks to the Coconino National Forest boundary. In designing this bigger ecosystem type project, some needs are apparent. Good pronghorn telemetry movement data exists for areas north of the Peaks (including the eastside of Kendrick Park) in GMU 7 East from the current Highway 89 Pronghorn Movement Study. Data from this study will be used to identify areas in GMU 7 East for pronghorn habitat improvement of both summer and winter range as well as movement corridors. However, actual telemetry data does not exist for the west side of Kendrick Park. Thus, the need to capture pronghorn on the west side of Kendrick Park. No pronghorn crossed Highway 180 from the Highway 89 study. However, a single buck was observed crossing Highway 180 in the summer of 2008 at Kendrick Park on two separate occasions. One other buck was observed trying to cross the right of way fence, but could not. After about 20 minutes of trying the buck turned east and walked away from the highway. Approximately, 1/3 mile of right-of-way fence was raised to 18” in this stretch of Hwy 180 in the summer of 2009 by the AZ Wildlife Federation. Previously, this section of right-of-way fence was approximately 8-10” off the ground on the west side and 12” on the east side. Hopefully, pronghorn can now easily cross Hwy 180.

The west side of Kendrick Park is approximately 950 acres of excellent summer range for pronghorn and does with multiple fawns have been seen there in recent years. The thought process for this proposal is to let the pronghorn show us the corridors they prefer to use and then design habitat projects to maintain and improve these areas and corridors. As stated earlier, there are threats to the perceived movement corridor between Kendrick Park and Government Prairie, such as the Crowley Park subdivision, fencing and tree planting from 30 years ago (see pictures below for what these planting currently look like). With the high costs of habitat improvement projects these days, using “I know so data rather than I think so data” is best to design projects to make sure we get it right.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Identify pronghorn movement corridors from the west side of Highway 180 at Kendrick Park to other parts of GMU 7 West. These identified corridors would then be used to direct future habitat projects to maintain identified corridors.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Utilize GPS telemetry collars to track pronghorn movement. Ideally, two pronghorn would be captured and tracked for two years to get to most data available from each animal. Capturing two pronghorn would be best in case of early mortality. Pronghorn would ideally be collared via a helicopter net gun operation. However, the west side of Kendrick Park is a smaller area and capturing two animals may prove difficult from a helicopter. A back up plan would be to collar the pronghorn via darting or rocket nets while on water or apple mesh baiting or a combination of the two techniques. Any unspent capture money would be returned to the funding source for other projects.



Picture of the Ponderosa Pine plantings between west Kendrick Park and Crowley Park.



PROJECT LOCATION:

Kendrick Park approximately 20 miles northwest of Flagstaff along Highway 180

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

Coconino National Forest-Peaks Ranger District

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Montane Open Grassland Habitat at approximately 7,900 ft elevation.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

2 Telonics Generation 4 Store on Board GPS Collars (refurbished)	\$ 3,500
Helicopter Capture Operations	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
	<u>\$ 6,500</u>

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

See above

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

AGFD will conduct monthly monitoring for mortality signals

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

N/A

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Carl Lutch